

Claims

We claim:

1. A device for securing a bicycle wheel to a bicycle, the device comprising:
a generally u-shaped form having first and second arm portions extending from a base portion, the arm portions being spaced from each other generally proximate the base portion a sufficient distance to permit a handlebar stem of the bicycle to fit therebetween, the first and second arm portions terminating in first and second ends, the first and second end portions being spaced from each other, the first end having a first dropout attached thereto, the second end having a second dropout attached thereto, the first dropout having a first slot and the second dropout having a second slot, the first and second slots being substantially aligned with each other and adapted to receive the ends of an axle of the bicycle wheel therein.
2. The device of claim 1, wherein the form at least partially comprises a wireform.
3. The device of claim 1, wherein the form at least partially comprises tubular rod.
4. An assembly comprising the device of claim 1 and a strap, the strap adapted to wrap around both a portion of the bicycle wheel and the bicycle.
5. The device of claim 1:
wherein each arm portion (i) extends from the base portion a first distance to a first location, (ii) is bent at a first angle at the first location, and (iii) extends from the first location until terminating at the respective first or second dropout; and
wherein each arm portion between the first location and the respective first or second dropout is substantially coplanar with the other arm portion.
6. The device of claim 5, wherein the first angle is between 30 and 100 degrees.

7. The device of claim 1, wherein form comprises at least one from the set of aluminum, steel, titanium, magnesium and reinforced plastic.
8. The device of claim 1, wherein the base portion is curved.
9. The device of claim 1, wherein the base portion and the arm portions proximate the base portion are coated with a polymeric material.
10. A method for attaching a bicycle wheel to a bicycle, the method comprising:
 bracing a wheel holding device against at least one of a handlebar stem and a handlebar of the bicycle; and
 securing the bicycle wheel to the wheel holding device.
11. The method of claim 10, further comprising strapping the bicycle wheel to the bicycle.
12. The method of claim 10, wherein the wheel holding device comprises a generally u-shaped form having first and second arm portions extending from a base portion, the arm portions being spaced from each other generally proximate the base portion a sufficient distance to permit a handlebar stem of the bicycle to fit therebetween, the first and second arm portions terminating in first and second ends, the first and second ends being spaced from each other, the first end having a first dropout attached thereto, the second end having a second dropout attached thereto, the first dropout having a first slot and the second dropout having a second slot, the first and second slots being substantially aligned with each other and adapted to receive the ends of an axle of the bicycle wheel therein.
13. The method of claim 10, further comprising removing the bicycle wheel from one of the rear dropouts of the bicycle and the front fork of the bicycle.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising placing the bicycle in a bicycle rack.
15. The method of claim 10, wherein the bicycle wheel is the front wheel of the bicycle.
16. The method of claim 10, wherein said bracing the wheel attachment device comprises clamping the device to one or both the handlebar stem and the handlebar.
17. The method of claim 10, wherein said bracing the wheel holding device comprises bracing a first portion of the wheel holding device underneath the extension portion of a stem of the bicycle and bracing a second portion against the top side of a handlebar of the bicycle.
18. A device for attaching a bicycle wheel to a bicycle, the device comprising:
 - a generally V-shaped portion, the V-shaped portion including two legs;
first and second support leg portions, each support leg portion intersecting with an end of one of the legs of the V-shaped portion at a proximal end forming a first angle, each support leg portion extending from the proximal end to a distal end; and
first and second dropout portions, the first dropout portion being attached to the distal end of the first support leg portion, the second dropout portion being attached to the distal end of the second support leg portion, each of the first and second dropout portions including a slot formed therein for receiving a portion of an axle of the bicycle wheel, the slot of the first dropout portion being substantially aligned with the slot of the second dropout portion.
19. The device of claim 18, wherein the V-shaped portion and the first and second support leg portions comprise a wireform.
20. The device of claim 19, wherein the wireform comprises 0.375 to 0.50" diameter steel rod.

21. The device of claim 19, wherein the V-shaped portion is covered with a protective covering.
22. The device of claim 21, wherein the protective covering is a polymeric material.
23. The device of claim 18, wherein the first angle is about 30-100 degrees.
24. An assembly including (i) the device of claim 18, and (ii) the bicycle wheel with the ends of the axle of the bicycle wheel received into the slots of the first and second dropout portions, and (iii) the bicycle with the device braced against one or both the stem and handlebar of the bicycle.
25. The assembly of claim 24 including a strap, the strap passing around a rim of the bicycle wheel and a portion of the bicycle.
26. A device for attaching a bicycle wheel to a bicycle, the device comprising:
 - a framework adapted to attach to one or both a stem or handlebar of the bicycle without a clamping mechanism that comprises interconnected moving parts; and
 - a wheel attachment mechanism coupled with the framework for securing the bicycle wheel to the device.
27. The device of claim 26, wherein the framework comprises a wireform.
28. The device of claim 26, wherein the wheel attachment mechanism comprises a pair of spaced and aligned slots adapted to receive an axle of the bicycle wheel therein.